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is inadequate and unsatisfactory. In the chronological narrative that follows Mr. Macy concentrates an undue amount of attention on the struggle for Kansas, with the result that the origin and development of the republican party are sadly neglected. One unique feature of the synthesis of the volume is the emphasis upon John Quincy Adams and, more particularly, upon Charles Sumner as the protagonists of the antislavery cause in congress. One's inclination to accept this choice of Sumner over Seward does not prevent a doubt as to the desirability of devoting over sixteen pages of so small a volume to Sumner to the neglect of an adequate estimate of Seward and Lincoln. To John Brown, the martyr-crusader, is given the last chapter of the volume. The author repeatedly admits that "Brown's contribution to Kansas history has been distorted beyond all recognition" (p. 231; see also p. 214), yet he himself devotes as much space to Brown's Kansas exploits as he does to the more important Harper's Ferry incident. The volume seems to evidence the fact that where the author has departed from the proportions usually assigned to the various items, he has done so with a knowledge of the fact and willingness to take the consequences for the freshness of the synthesis that is produced. It should also be noted that the treatment breaks from the traditional emphasis upon the New England influence in the antislavery movement, and gives the western aspect a more adequate consideration.

Throughout the volume Mr. Macy evidences a definite sympathy for the antislavery crusaders. More than this, he regards the slavery controversy as part of "the irrepressible conflict between liberty and despotism which has persisted in all ages" (p. 13). His conclusion is that the antislavery movement exemplifies "the most difficult lesson which history teaches: that slavery and despotism are themselves forms of war, that the shedding of blood is likely to continue so long as the rich, the strong, the educated, or the efficient, strive to force their will upon the poor, the weak, and the ignorant" (p. 232).

ARTHUR C. COLE

*The boss and the machine.* A chronicle of the politicians and party organization. By Samuel P. Orth. [Chronicles of America series] (New Haven: Yale university press, 1919. 203 p. \$3.50)

This volume is a brief treatment of a large subject. Brief as it is, its contents are of a wider range than a literal interpretation of the title might suggest, for the first chapter sketches the history of parties to 1860 and chapter eight describes the place of congress and the president in political action. On the whole, the proportion between matters primarily historical and those chiefly in the domain of political science is well chosen. Five chapters (III-VII) deal with the more notorious epi-

sodes in the rôle of the bosses in congressional, state, and municipal affairs since the close of the civil war; the three last chapters (IX-XI) describe the efforts to deprive the bosses of their political power through movements for reforms in the civil service, the ballot, legislation, city administration, and control of party organization. The underlying theme is the opportunity for organized corruption in the demand of business interests for aid and stimulus by the government and the consequent necessity, as a means of protecting the public, of extending state control over that which was originally a private concern, party organization.

To the vast subject treated there is no effort to add new information or a new perspective. The indebtedness to the larger and also the more technical works relating to American history and various phases of American government and politics is apparent. But as a brief and ably-written summary, well suited to introduce the average citizen to the larger phases of political mechanism in the past and at the present time, the book should be useful. The bibliography, which is brief, does not list histories, autobiographies, and many biographies which contain material relating to party history, party organization, and the methods of bosses. Even more singular is the omission of the important guide books so essential for any extensive reading or investigation in the field of American politics. The press work, the binding, and the eight full-page illustrations are of the high quality characteristic of the other volumes in the series already published.

WILLIAM K. BOYD

*Washington.* The man who made us. A ballad play by Percy MacKaye.

With scene designs by Robert Edmond Jones. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1919. 313 p. \$1.75 net)

The portrayal of *the real* George Washington, "magnetic, resourceful, patient," in place of the statuesque, almost mythical character of the early biographers is worthy of commendation. There can be little criticism of the play from the viewpoint of the historian, for the author acknowledges that there are minor inconsistencies in time and place. This "ballad play probably the first of its kind," has two versions, the "theatre version" and the "festival version." The latter or unabridged form is designed for what the writer styles the community drama, or the theatre of tomorrow. For "festival theatre" purposes, one hundred participants are presumed to represent the one hundred speaking characters, whereas the several rôles may be taken by fewer than one third that number of professionals. In general, Washington the surveyor, farmer, and soldier under Braddock, the early revolution including the crossing of the Delaware, and from Valley Forge to the close of the revo-